

Message Text

SECRET

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11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 150915Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5248
INFO/RUQMKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 3870
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USUN NEW YORK 4003

S E C R E T CAIRO 9552

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF
SUBJECT: LEBANON

REF: CAIRO 9510 (NOTAL)

1. FAHMY WAS BUSY ALL DAY YESTERDAY WITH VISITING ARAB FON-
MINS, BUT SHOWED UP AT FRENCH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION LAST
NIGHT. IN BRIEF SNATCH CONVERSATION WITH HIM, HE DESCRIBED
JUST COMPLETED AL SESSION AS TIRING AND FRUSTRATING. ALL PAR-
TICIPANTS HAD SHOWN DEEP SUSPICION OF EACH OTHER'S MOTIVES,
HENCE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO HAVE A MEETING OF MINDS. ONLY POS-
ITIVE THING WHICH HAD EMERGED WAS AGREEMENT ON PART OF SYRIANS
AND PLO TO SEEK TO RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES, WHICH FAHMY
CLAIMED HE HAD ENGINEERED. IF THIS WORKS OUT, AND HE IS NOT
SURE THAT IT WILL, IT MIGHT THEN BE POSSIBLE TAKE FURTHER STEPS
IN LEBANON. FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT
FIGHTING WOULD GO ON UNDIMINISHED. SYRIANS STILL SAY THEY
WANT TO GET OUT OF LEBANON, BUT THIS IS MERE SHAM. WE COULD
NOT CONTINUE TALK BECAUSE OTHERS CAME UP TO GREET HIM.

2. IN SEPARATE TALK LAST NIGHT WITH BAHRAINIAN AND TUNISIAN
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AMBASSADORS, BOTH OF WHOM ATTENDED SESSION, THEY TOO, EXPRESSED

FRUSTRATION. TUNISIAN WROTE OFF AL SESSION AS HAVING ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING MEANINGFUL. BAHRAINI PROFESSED TO SEE SLIGHT RAY OF HOPE IN POSSIBILITY THAT SYRIANS AND PLO HAD AGREED TO TRY TO RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES. ASKED IF HE THOUGHT BOTH PARTIES MEANT IT, BAHRAINI WOULD ONLY SAY HE HOPED SO. ASKED ABOUT PLO SPOKESMAN SHARARA'S PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF THE AL SESSION IMMEDIATELY AFTER IT TERMINATED (PARA 2 REFTEL), BAHRAINI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS HAD ALMOST THROWN ANOTHER SPANNER INTO THE WORKS.

3. SHARARA, HE CLAIMED, HAD APPEARED SEVERAL DAYS AGO ASKING TO BE ADMITTED. THOUGH ADMITTED, SHARARA HAD NO OFFICIAL PLACE ON PLO DELEGATION. AFTER SHARARA'S POST-SESSION BLAST, KHADDAM HAD ASKED PLO REP SURANI WHETHER SHARARA'S COMMENTS REFLECTED PLO ATTITUDE. SURANI REPORTEDLY TOLD KHADDAM THAT SHARARA WAS SPEAKING FOR NO ONE BUT HIMSELF AND SHOULD BE DISREGARDED. IF BAHRAINI IS TO BE BELIEVED, KHADDAM ACCEPTED THIS AT FACE VALUE. TUNISIAN AND BAHRAINI BOTH OPINED, SEPARATELY, THAT SHARARA HAS COMMUNIST CONNECTIONS AND WAS DELIBERATELY SEEKING TO DISRUPT THE SESSION.

4. IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES LAST NIGHT, QUESTION REPEATEDLY ASKED WAS WHY SYG MAHMUD RIAD ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE DESIGNATED SOLE REPRESENTATIVE TO TRY TO BRING TOGETHER WARRING LEBANESE GROUPS AND RECONCILE SYRIAN/PLO DIFFERENCES. AT VERY LEAST, RIAD SHOULD HAVE INSISTED UPON RETENTION OF SOME SORT OF TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE TO ASSIST HIM. BY HIMSELF, EVEN WITH SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, HASSAN SABRI AL-KHOLY, HIS CHANCES FOR SUCCESS ARE MINIMAL. (AL-KHOLY IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO BEIRUT TOMORROW.) YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR, WHO IS CLOSE TO RIAD, EXPRESSED VIEW THAT RIAD ASPIRES TO SOME SENIOR UN POLITICAL POSITION AND HOPES HIS EFFORTS IN LEBANON, WHETHER OR NOT THEY SUCCEED, WILL FURTHER THAT ASPIRATION.

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